

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 remain in this application. Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe (US 6,531,284). Claims 5-7 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Yadokoro (JP 09-168118). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to require that the transfer electrodes are deactivated prior to discharging the information charges in the channel regions. As the Examiner admits in paragraph 1 of the Office Action dated February 11, 2004, and as argued previously in the Reply to Office Action Dated July 8, 2003, Filed November 10, 2003, which is incorporated by reference herein, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Watanabe of deactivating the transfer electrodes prior to discharging charges from the channel regions. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-4 be reconsidered in view of the amendment and that claims 1-4 be allowed.

As previously amended, independent claim 5 requires that the clock generator:

deactivates the vertical clock signal so that the transfer electrodes are maintained in a deactivation state after transferring the stored information charges, and then activates the substrate clock signal so that the potential of the semiconductor substrate is increased and the information charges in the channel region are discharged while keeping the plurality of transfer electrodes deactivated.

Thus, Applicant respectfully points out that, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, claims 5-7 require that the transfer electrodes be deactivated prior to increasing the potential of the semiconductor substrate. As the Examiner admits, this is not disclosed, taught or suggested by the Watanabe reference, nor is it disclosed, taught or suggested by the Yadokoro reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 5-7, and that claims 5-7 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7. Applicant has amended claim 1 to overcome the rejection. No new matter has been added.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. In the event that a telephone conference would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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